Western Corridor (Jawaharlal Nehru Port Terminal to Tughlakabad/ Dadri) have been sanctioned by the Government and is under implementation.

(b) Final Location Survey for the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor and for Ludhiana-Sonnagar Section of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor has been completed. Notification for Land Acquisition under Section 20A of Railway (Amendment) Act, 2008 have been issued for about 2400 Kilometers for both the corridors. First construction contract for 105 Kilometers in Eastern Corridor and for 54 major and important bridges on Western Corridor has also been awarded.

Negotiation for funding with World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) are in progress. The project is targeted to be completed by 2016-17, subject to availability of funds and timely availability of land.

(c) The Ministry of Railways is trying their best for early finalisation of the main loan agreements with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The land acquisition process is also being expedited for early implementation of the project. The project is of high priority and is being monitored intensively.

Problems due to dislocation of under construction steel plants

†3390. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the under construction domestic steel plants have resolved the problem of dislocation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry is aware of those steel plants that are causing severe pollution in the surrounding areas, where production has started;

(d) if so, the steps being taken to make the environment pollution free;

(e) whether domestic steel companies have played some important role in providing employment to unemployed youth of the surrounding villages; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (f) The information is being collected from Ministry of Environment and Forest, the respective State Governments and major steel investors and will be laid on the table of the House.

Capacity expansion of steel plants

3391. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

SHRI N. K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether due to delay in allotting captive iron-ore mine to steel companies, the capacity expansion of the steel plants has been affected;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether in the absence of adequate raw material, the steel plants are unable to produce steel as per target; and

(d) if so, the steps contemplated by Government to ensure allotment of captive iron ore mines to steel companies to achieve the target of production of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The capacity expansion projects of steel units are not solely dependent upon the allocation of iron-ore mines.

(c) and (d) The present production of iron-ore in the country is sufficient for the present domestic steel capacity. The production of iron-ore in the country during 2008-09 was 227.64 million tonnes, while the domestic consumption of iron-ore was estimated to be only 87 million tonnes. During 2008-09, 105.86 million tonnes of iron ore was exported from the country. However, Ministry of Steel is in favour of promoting value addition within the country and conservation of iron ore for long term utilization by the domestic steel industry. In this regard, it may be mentioned that the Government has approved. 'National Mineral Policy' 2008 which *inter-alia* provides for preference to value adders in the allocation of mineral concession. Ministry of Mines is in the process of bringing a new legislation to replace the existing Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 to give effect to the intent of the National Mineral Policy, 2008 and recommendations of the Hoda Committee as approved by the Government.

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12.00 NOON

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Correcting Answer to Question

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): Sir, I lay on the Table, a Statement (in English and Hindi) correcting the answer to Unstarred Question 2606 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th December, 2009 regarding Annual Requirement of Coaches.

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[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Statements (2008-09 and 2009-10) on Quarterly Review under Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): Sir, I lay on the Table: